



Superior Street Reconstruction



Meeting Minutes - Public Information Meeting #1

Greysolon Ballroom
Tuesday, October 22 / 4:30 P.M.

Attendance

Refer to attached sign-in sheet.

City staff in attendance:

Eric Shaffer
Chief Engineer of Utilities

Keith Hamre
Director of Planning and Construction Services

Cari Pedersen
Chief Engineer of Transportation

Jenn Reed Moses
City of Duluth Planning

Patrick Loomis
Project Engineer

David Montgomery
City of Duluth Chief Administration Officer

Mark Guisfredi
Project Engineer

Also in attendance from the City consultant team (LHB/SRF) were Barry Warner, Brad Scott, Joe Litman and Brian Johnson.

Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M. with the introductions of City staff, City leaders, and the project consultant team. Barry Warner served as the meeting facilitator. Kristi Stokes (Greater Downtown Council) and Keith Hamre gave brief introductory remarks regarding the project.

Meeting materials provided to attendees consisted of a project FAQ sheet; project fact sheet; and a questionnaire regarding the project (questionnaire responses received at the meeting are attached).

A PowerPoint slide show was presented that covered the following topics:

Meeting Purpose

The Purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project and to begin the process of gathering public input on the project.

Project Overview

The project will reconstruct Superior Street from 6th Ave West to 4th Ave East. The project includes complete re-surfacing of the roadway and pedestrian areas within the 80-ft right-of-way which extends from building face to building face on each side of the street. The project also includes complete replacement of City utilities (water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer) within the project limits.

It is anticipated that the project will tie-in to the adjoining avenues at the curb returns (i.e. the point where the Superior Street curb turns toward and first meets the curb on the intersecting avenue).

Project Background

A brief overview of Superior Street's history was provided. Many of Superior Street's utilities including water and sewer date from the mid-1880s. Train/Trolley tracks also from the early 1880s are still present beneath the street. The current pavement section consists of composite layers of brick, bituminous (asphalt), and concrete. The last major reconstruction of Superior Street occurred in the 1980s which consisted primarily of surfacing and streetscape work with very limited utility work.

Utility Work

The project will remove and replace the existing City utility infrastructure (water, sanitary, and storm) within the project limits. Utilities are located at varying depths below the pavement surface and trench excavation to reach those utilities at depth can be expected to take up a relatively large amount of space at the roadway surface and impact vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Construction staging and sequencing to minimize the impact of the utility work on the travelling public and businesses is a primary focus of the project.

Meetings with private utility owners will be held to encourage those utilities to be improved or replaced prior to or during the propose project so that future potential for excavation in the new roadway section is minimized.

Traffic Circulation

A traffic study will be conducted. The proposed project will need to accommodate a wide variety of users including vehicles, transit, pedestrians and cyclists as well as parking and other traffic accommodations.

Streetscaping

Streetscaping plans will be developed that will address the various surface elements of the street including image and appeal of the street (material selection of walks, pavement, parking areas, etc.); pedestrian movement; related amenities, decorative lighting and landscaping.

Project Schedule

The project is currently in the public involvement and preliminary design phase which is scheduled to be complete by November 2014. Final design and preparation of design plans is scheduled for 2015 and 2016. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2016.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement

The public involvement process will involve (6) public meetings to solicit and incorporate public input into the design process. The meetings will parallel the preliminary design process which will study technical issues related to the project utility work; construction sequencing and staging; traffic circulation and other project objectives. Additional meetings with business and property owners are also anticipated.

Preliminary Design

The preliminary design will focus on technical issues related to the project including minimizing the effect of construction on businesses, properties and the travelling public; utility replacement and maintenance of services during construction; traffic control and construction sequencing; construction cost estimating and budgeting. The preliminary design will incorporate the input and results of the public involvement process and will conclude with a summary technical report that will provide recommendations to be followed in the final design and plan preparation.

Project Funding

Funding for the project is expected to include State Aid funds; City street and utility sources; assessments; and potentially could include grants or other special funding sources.

Stay Involved

The second public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 at 4:30 P.M. at the Holiday Inn on Superior Street.

The City has setup a website to make information regarding the project available to the project at: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/planning/superiorstreet.cfm>

Local organizations including the Greater Downtown Council (GDC); Chamber of Commerce; and Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) will remain involved in the project.

Questions regarding the project can be directed to Jenn Reed Moses at the City of Duluth at jmoses@duluthmn.gov or by phone at 218/730-5328.

Comments Received at Meeting

Attendees were encouraged to ask questions or provide comments. Comments will be recorded and where, due to preliminary stage of design, answers could not be provided, the project team will follow-up.

Comment	Follow-up / Response
Will connection @ Muffler Clinic to Lakewalk be a part of the project?	Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.
Need to include wayfinding & connectivity into streetscape design.	Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.
Duluth steam may be going from steam to hot water and will it be a part of project?	Dave Montgomery response: currently being studied and, yes, it would be most cost effective and is being studied as such.
Will it be logical to assume that if steam plan is not ready to go and do when street project happens that it would not happen?	Dave M.: Street will not be dug up once completed.
Presently high pressure water main runs in street and many of the smaller buildings are not tied in. Would/can main services at least be stubbed to buildings for future?	Yes, it is a goal of project to address/accommodate water service and building fire flow requirements.
Greg Follmer There are additional parking interest in this area would project include these additional facilities? Share so plan can consider and examine to not preclude.	Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.

Comment	Follow-up / Response
Can it be considered to reduce scope to just a good surfacing project and preserve the in place deep infrastructure? Concern is that small businesses will not be able to survive the big project as being discussed.	Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.
What will happen to transit services? It is important that transit has access to Superior Street.	Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.
Will the avenues be re-done?	Current thought is to replace only to curb return.
This spring paving occurred in front of my business and it blocked parking in front for 8 days and 2/3 of my business was lost. Nobody told me about it and I had nobody to contact regarding the problems. Did not get the feeling that City cared about my business.	City is committed to hearing and addressing concerns by businesses and public and everyone is encouraged to contact the City and consultant staff with any concern.
Rick Heimbach (Bagley's) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We survived last street project. • Appreciate openness and candidness of presentation. • Achieving maximum parking in front of their business really benefitted us and the block he is on. 	Comment rec'd and appreciated.
Tim Sorenson (Incline Station) Why not include the block west of current limits? Sidewalks are in tough shape.	Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined. May be r/w issues to contend with at west end of project.
During previous project, City put up a table at the library for people to provide comments at their leisure.	Comment rec'd and appreciated.
Irish Pub & Grill Concerned with changing people's habits: if people get out of habit of going down a street then they likely will stay away. Keep the avenues open. Are you thinking of trying to do in one fell swoop like done in Superior?	Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.

Comment	Follow-up / Response
<p>Penny Perry (Perry Framing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Superior Street project almost killed their business and did kill several others.• Workers parked on Avenues and clogged them and workers blocked many areas but not always working in those areas.• Will large utility project put in last year have to be redone?	<p>Comment rec'd and appreciated. Last year's project (sewer overflow) will not be re-done or affected by the proposed project.</p>
<p>If Avenues could be turned into 2 way it would be helpful.</p>	<p>Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.</p>
<p>St. Luke's has several clinics with ambulatory needs and special access needs within project area.</p>	<p>Comment rec'd and appreciated: project team will follow-up and investigate.</p>
<p>If assessment is part of project do not assess at time of project but delay assessment so business is not hit by loss of income and assessment.</p>	<p>Comment rec'd and appreciated: to be determined.</p>

Attachments

1_Questionnaire Responses (a *.pdf version is available on the City web site)

2_Meeting PowerPoint (a *.pdf version is available on the City web site)